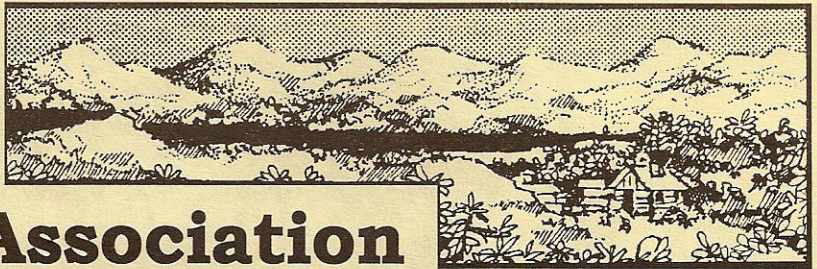


ESTATOE

Quarterly Newsletter

Yancey History Association



Volume XVI, No. 4

Preserving Our Appalachian Heritage

Winter 2002/03

The Museum of Yancey County History *2002 the year in review*

The McElroy House Victorian Christmas



Friday evening the McElroy House guests enjoyed a performance by Rev. Raymond Hollifield playing the viola with accompaniment of Dr. Dorothy Bobbe playing the violin. Yancey County 4-H Home Schoolers Shannon, Sonya and Sara Blalock served as museum helpers.

The featured musical attraction on Saturday was a Harpsichord, built and provided by Joe Norris, played by Ryan Hensley and Corinne Sneller. Ms. Sneller also introduced a few of her select music students giving them the opportunity to perform on the Harpsichord.

The Living History Room was beautifully decorated by Virginia Lovejoy of The Design Gallery.

(continued on page 2)

Holiday House visitors were greeted by John and Catherine McElroy portrayed by the History Museum's Curator Jim Priesmeyer and his wife Jeffrie Lynn Standen.

The Christmas tree was donated by Gene and Brenda Ledford. Ornaments for the tree were made by the students of Mountain Heritage High School. The tree was decorated by Kate Paxton's students of Arthur Morgan School.



Victorian Christmas

(continued from page 1)

Keith and Jennie Johnson kept the mint tea and spiced cider simmering while Desiree Huskins kept the platters filled with extraordinary goodies like Jewell Hyatt's Stack Cake, Winnie and Marcia McKinney's Gingerbread cookies and Faye Boone's Chocolate Cake.

Karen Wyatt and Dana McDowell from D.K. Puttyroot created an inviting entry to the main section of the house including garland that drew visitors up the stairway.

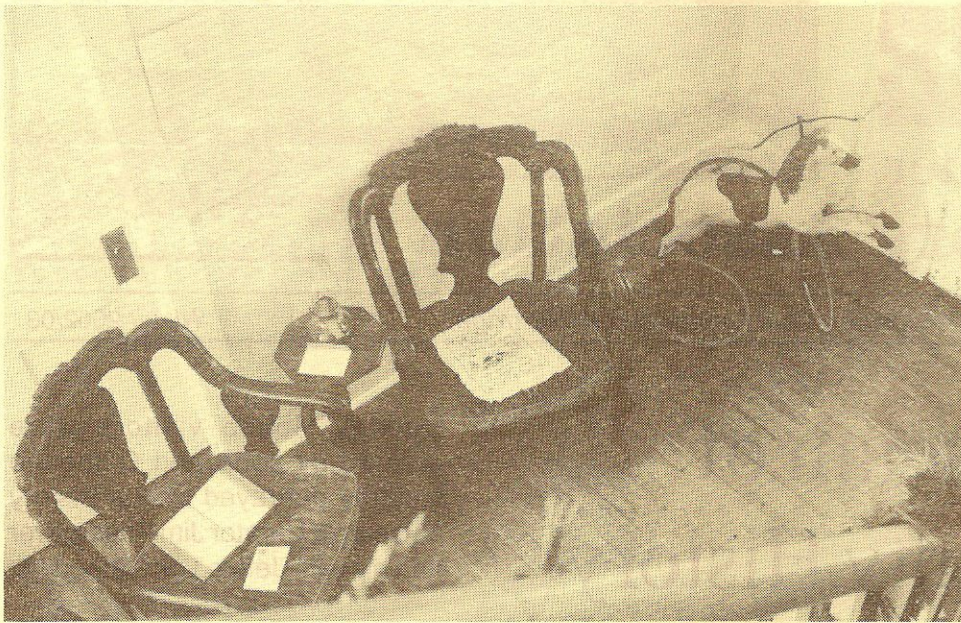
Elizabeth Hardy and Judy Lackey gave a touch of authenticity as they flowed through the house in their mid 1800's costumes.

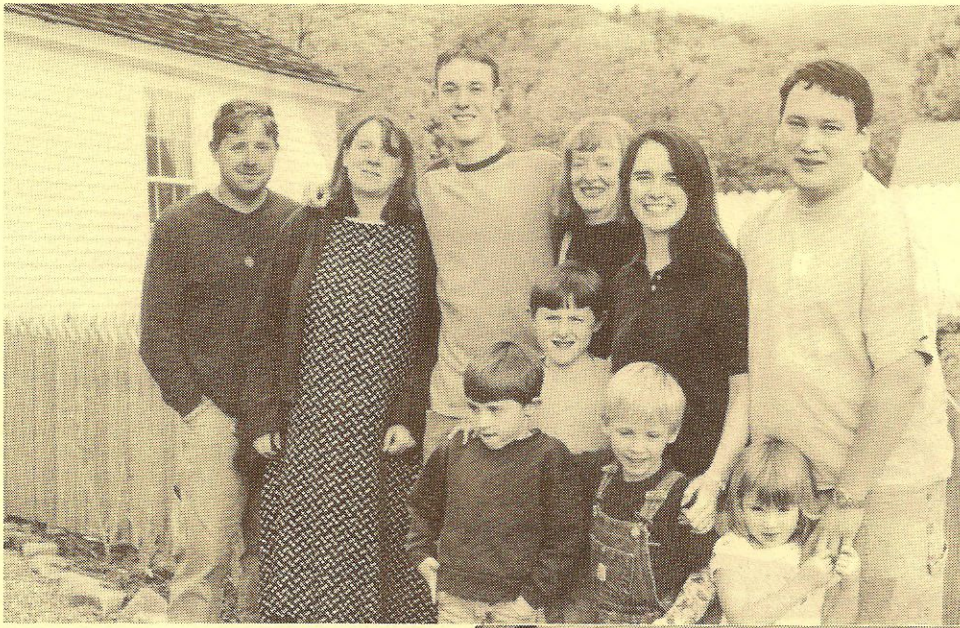
Grapevine Limited's Nancy Bennett and Linda Illes added their skillful decorating touch giving the Moore Family Master bedroom a warm glow.

This was the first year for this event and it far exceeded our expectations. A great many of one to two hundred smiling faces that toured the Museum were first time visitors. The History Association looks forward to expanding this event in 2003.

Family Heritage Day

Margaret Griffith organized a wide range of Yancey County Family Historians who shared information with the steady stream of visitors who came out in search of their family's past, Y.H.A. members Frances Higgins, Elaine Dellinger and Gwen Bodford brought a mountain of knowledge to this event while Jacque Redleaf Garneau and Michael & Elizabeth Hardy shared stories about the life styles of American-Indians and the early settlers of the Appalachian Region.





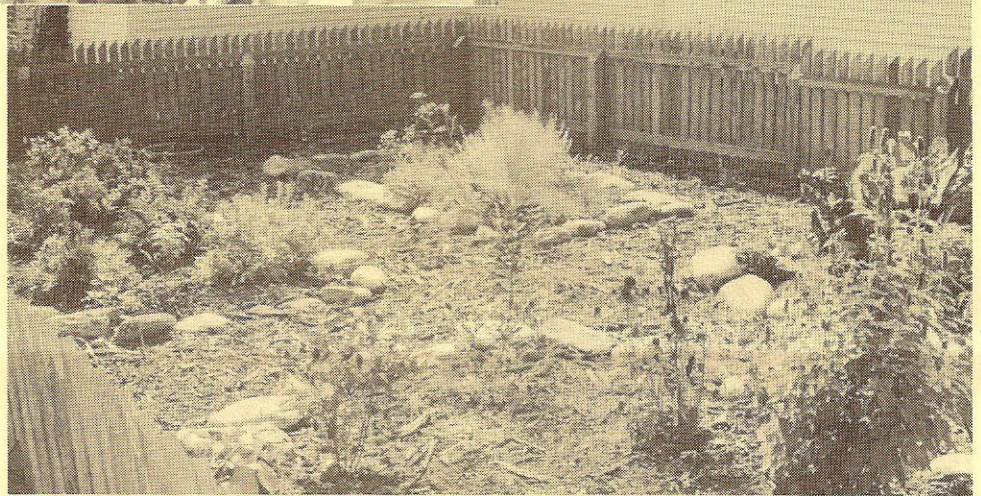
Jim Ray Memorial Heritage Garden

Sandra Ray and her children and grandchildren attended the dedication of the new heirloom garden which was funded by donations made in honor of her late husband and through a grant from Walmart that was secured by Kim Hopson and Linda Semon who coordinated the 4-H after school students who prepared the soil and planted the garden.

The planning and design for the Heritage Garden was provided by Mary Whiteside.

The fence was built by Y.H.A. volunteers Keith Johnson and Mike Herman.

Product donations to make this garden a reality were received from Ken Cooke, the Cottage Gate, Fox Brothers Country Store and Parker Forest Products.



Other Notable Events of the Past Year

Grants: The Community Foundation of Western North Carolina awarded the Y.H.A. a Technology Grant which has allowed us to put sound and a recorded tour in each room of the Museum and to produce videos to enhance Museum visits. We have also begun conducting video interviews with our senior citizens allowing us to capture the genuine experience of growing up in Yancey County. This fall we received \$20,000 from the Janirve Foundation to reconstruct the front porch and the chimneys.

Displays: The Museum received the loan of the "Schmidt Collection" which consists of points, projectiles and other tools and artifacts found at a single sight in the Green Mountain area of our county. This collection combined with the on loan "John Young Collection" has made it possible for the Museum to create an exhibit that spans fourteen thousand years of human habitation of Yancey County.

Programs: Charlotte Ross shared a most interesting presentation on the regional impact caused by the loss of the Chestnut Tree. Perry Young shared information on the naming of the mountains that make up the Black Mountain Range and conducted the first Young Family Heritage Day.

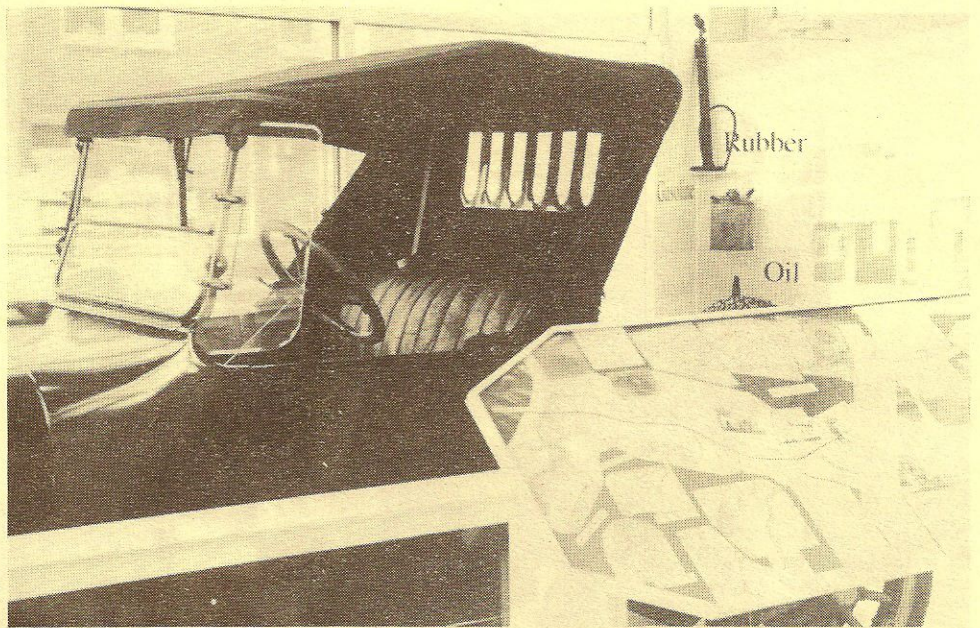
Donations: The American Indian Basket donated by Jacque Redleaf generated nearly \$500 in raffle tickets and was won by Susan B. Paris who has put it on loan to the Museum. Since our last newsletter substantial cash gifts were received from: The Mountain Air Pilot's Association, Bill Banks, Paul Burton, David and Carolyn Cort, Liewellyn Estep, Gerry and Gayle Foret, Frederika Sargent, Walter and Anne Savage, Shelba and Bob Thomas.

Thank You for your support.

The History of Yancey County Transportation Exhibit, made possible through a transportation enhancement grant from the NC Department of Transportation was dedicated in May.

In addition to an anonymous donation of \$5,000 this exhibit was made possible by the following sponsors:

- Mountain Air Country Club
- Carolina Collision
- Bill & Ginny Banks
- Craftpride Inc.
- Earl & Betty Young
- John & Denise Young



The planning and design for the Heritage Garden was provided by Mary Whitaker. The fence was built by Y.H.A. volunteers Keith Johnson and Mike Hinton.

Thanks to a NC Grassroots Grant, through the Toe River Arts Council, Rob Levin, Red Wilson and Bruce Green entertained Museum patrons following the dedication of the Transportation Exhibit and the Jim Ray Memorial Heritage Garden.

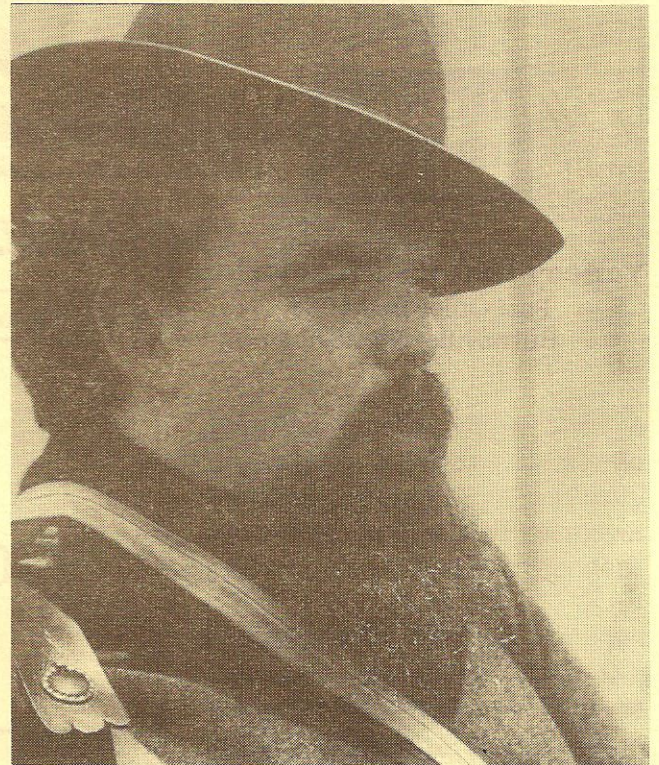
Yancey Students Visit the History Museum

Rhonda Boone's class from Micaville Elementary School was one of several student groups to visit the History Museum this year.

The 4-H Middle School Student after school program, Mountain Heritage Students and the 4-H Home School Students all toured the Museum this year.

The History Association also donated a copy of "Images of Yancey" to each of the nine public school libraries this year.





The Battle of Burnsville - Living Historians

Daphnie Baird joins her daughter Elizabeth Hardy and son in-law Michael Hardy sharing the Heritage of the Appalachian Region. Michael and Elizabeth are two of our hardest working volunteers. They have brought History to life through Historical interpretation.

ESTATOOEE

*Published Quarterly by the
Yancey History Association*

P.O. Box 1088
Burnsville, NC 28714
(828) 682-3671

Estatooee (es-to-toe-e)

Estootowie in early records. A Cherokee place name, shortened to **Estatooe/Estatoah**, from which the name Towe or Toe River is derived.

Editors: Lloyd Bailey

Co-Editor: Jim Priesmeyer

Officers of the Association

President: Jacque Redleaf Garneau

Vice-President: Michael Hardy

Treasurer: Dr. Tim Babb

Secretary: Desiree Huskins

Directors: Dr. Keith Johnson, Jason Robinson

Executive Director: Jim Priesmeyer

This issue of the Estatoee is sponsored by Iris Ray Meyer

Special Events Schedule 2003

Annual Meeting

Sunday, April 6th at 2:00 p.m.

Fifth Annual "Battle of Burnsville"

Friday & Saturday, April 25th and 26th

Museum Dedication Ceremony Saturday, May 17th

Saturday, May 17th

"A Salute to American Veterans"

July 2nd - 6th

Storytelling Festival

Saturday, September 13th

Family Heritage Day

Saturday, October 4th

McElroy Holiday House

Friday & Saturday, December 5th & 6th

Programs and Meetings will be held the first Sunday of the month at 2:00 , April - October



Yancey History Association

Post Office Box 1088
Burnsville, NC 28714

The Museum of Yancey County History

Located in the McElroy House
11 Academy Street
Burnsville, NC 28714

Admission \$1.00

New Museum Hours

April & October

Friday & Saturday, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

May - September

Wednesday - Saturday, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.